



Home Front and Aftermath of War

GUIDE TO READING

The BIG Idea

Competition Among Countries After World War II, a new set of Cold War problems faced the international community.

Content Vocabulary

- mobilization (p. 880)
- kamikaze (p. 883)
- blitz (p. 884)
- Cold War (p. 886)

Academic Vocabulary

- widespread (p. 880)
- ideological (p. 886)

People and Places

- Albert Speer (p. 883)
- General Hideki Tōjō (p. 883)
- London (p. 884)
- Dresden (p. 884)

Reading Strategy

Comparing and Contrasting As you read, create a chart like the one below comparing and contrasting the impact of World War II on the lives of civilians.

Country	Impact on Lives of Civilians
Soviet Union	
United States	
Japan	
Germany	

During World War II, nations mobilized their people and geared their economies to war. While the troops fought, the citizens on the home front made personal sacrifices to produce the materials and supplies needed to fuel the war. Thousands lost their lives in bombing raids. Once the war ended, political tensions, suspicions, and conflicts of ideas led to a new struggle—the Cold War. The world seemed to be bitterly divided once again.

The Mobilization of Four Nations

MAIN IDEA The Soviet Union, the United States, Germany, and Japan all mobilized for the war with an emphasis on personal sacrifice.

HISTORY & YOU Do you believe that all citizens should cooperate during a national crisis? Read on to understand the feelings of sacrifice during the crisis of World War II.

Even more than World War I, World War II was a total war. Fighting was much more **widespread** and covered most of the world. Economic **mobilization** (the act of assembling and preparing for war) was more extensive; so, too, was the mobilization of women. The number of civilians killed—almost 20 million—was far higher. Many of these victims were children.

World War II had an enormous impact on civilian life in the Soviet Union, the United States, Germany, and Japan. We consider the home fronts of those four nations next.

The Soviet Union

Known to the Soviets as the Great Patriotic War, the German-Soviet war witnessed the greatest land battles in history, as well as incredible ruthlessness. The initial military defeats suffered by the Soviet Union led to drastic emergency measures that affected the lives of the civilian population. The city of Leningrad, for example, experienced 900 days of siege. Its inhabitants became so desperate for food that they even ate dogs, cats, and mice. Probably 1.5 million people died in the city.

As the German army made its rapid advance into Soviet territory, Soviet workers dismantled and shipped the factories in the western part of the Soviet Union to the interior—to the Urals, western Siberia, and the Volga regions. Machines were placed on the bare ground. As laborers began their work, walls went up around them.

Stalin called the widespread military and industrial mobilization of the nation a “battle of machines.” The Soviets won, producing

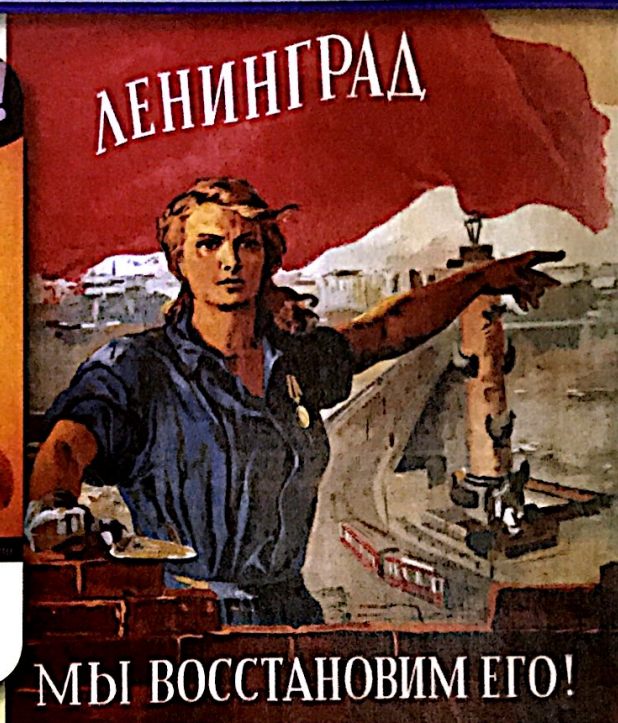
The Home Front in World War II

In both the United States and the Soviet Union, civilians made vital contributions to the war effort. New groups of workers, including women, filled industrial jobs while young men served as soldiers on the front lines. Industrial jobs were of critical importance because they manufactured essential supplies for war, including airplanes, ships, and ammunition.

Women, old men, and teenagers filled most of the jobs in Soviet factories. Working hours were long, and there were no days off. Production did not stop during the frequent bombing raids. Output increased to four times its prewar levels.



This American poster features Rosie the Riveter, a symbol of the female industrial worker contributing to the war effort.

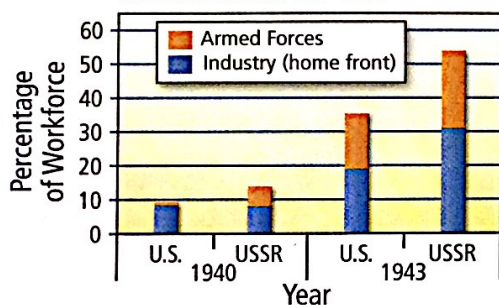


This 1944 Soviet World War II poster has a similar message as the American poster. The complete Russian slogan reads, "We will defend Leningrad! We will restore it!"

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTIONS

- Analyzing** What happened to the percentage of industrial workers between 1940 and 1943 in the United States and in the Soviet Union? Why?
- Comparing** Why do you think American and Soviet posters encouraged women to work in war-related jobs?

Mobilization for War



Source: *Economic History Review*.

78,000 tanks and 98,000 artillery pieces. In 1943, 55 percent of the Soviet national income went for war materials, compared with 15 percent in 1940. As a result of the emphasis on military goods, Soviet citizens experienced severe shortages of both food and housing.

Soviet women played a major role in the war effort. Women and girls worked in industries, mines, and railroads. Overall, the number of women working in industry increased almost 60 percent. Soviet women were also expected to dig antitank ditches and work as air-raid wardens. In addition,

the Soviet Union was the only country in World War II to use women in battle. Soviet women served as snipers and also in air-crews of bomber squadrons.

The United States

The home front in the United States was quite different from that of the other major powers. The United States was not fighting on its own territory. Eventually, the United States became the arsenal of the Allied Powers; it produced much of the military equipment the Allies needed. The height of war production came in November 1943.

At that point, the country was building six ships a day and 96,000 planes per year.

The mobilization of the American economy and workforce resulted in some social turmoil, however. The construction of new factories created boomtowns. Thousands came there to work but then faced a shortage of houses and schools. Sixteen million men and women were enrolled in the military and moved frequently. Another 16 million, mostly wives and girlfriends of servicemen or workers looking for jobs, also moved around the country.

Over a million African Americans moved from the rural South to the cities of the North and West, looking for jobs in industry. The presence of African Americans in areas where they had not lived before led to racial tensions and sometimes even racial riots. In Detroit in June 1943, for example, white mobs roamed the streets attacking African Americans.

One million African Americans joined the military, where they served in segregated units. For some, this treatment led later to a fight for their civil rights.

Japanese Americans faced even more serious issues. On the West Coast, 110,000 Japanese Americans, 65 percent of whom had been born in the United States, were removed to camps surrounded by barbed wire and required to take loyalty oaths. Public officials claimed this policy was necessary for security reasons.

California governor Culbert Olson expressed the racism in this policy:

PRIMARY SOURCE

"[W]hen I look out at a group of Americans of German or Italian descent, I can tell whether they're loyal or not. I can tell how they think and even perhaps what they are thinking. But it is impossible for me to do this with inscrutable Orientals, and particularly the Japanese."

INFOGRAPHICS

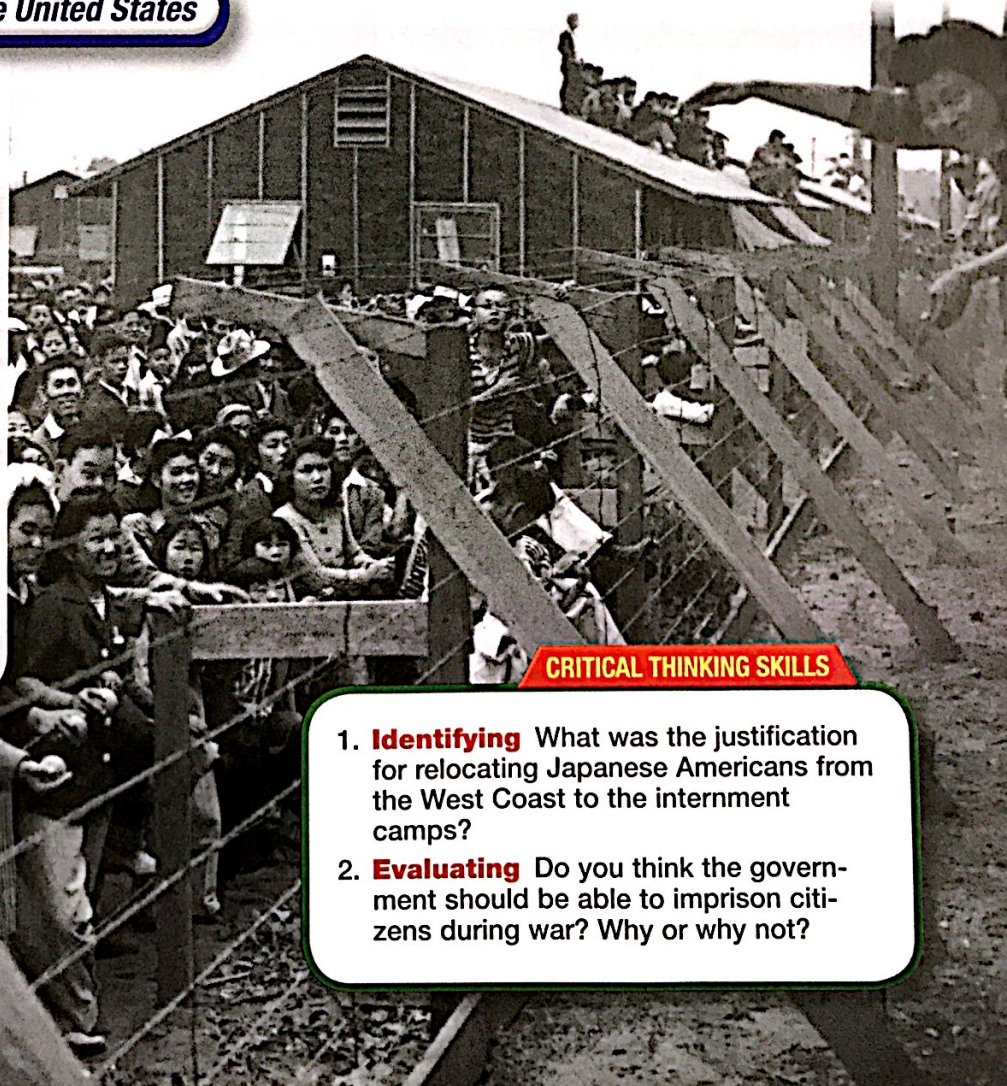
PRIMARY SOURCE

Japanese Internment in the United States

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, in late January 1942, the U.S. government released a report alleging—without proof—that Japanese American citizens had been involved in the attack. Soon afterward, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which allowed the military to intern, or confine, American citizens for the purpose of national defense.

Over 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry were forced to move from the West Coast to internment camps inland. Most of the Japanese internees were U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents.

The camps closed at the end of the war, but almost 50 years passed before Congress voted to pay reparations to the victims of internment.



CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

1. **Identifying** What was the justification for relocating Japanese Americans from the West Coast to the internment camps?
2. **Evaluating** Do you think the government should be able to imprison citizens during war? Why or why not?

Germany

In August 1914, Germans had enthusiastically cheered their soldiers marching off to war. In September 1939, the streets were quiet. Many Germans did not care. Even worse for the Nazi regime, many feared disaster.

Hitler was well aware of the importance of the home front. He believed that the collapse of the home front in World War I had caused Germany's defeat. In his determination to avoid a repetition of that experience, he adopted economic policies that may have cost Germany the war.

To maintain the morale of the home front during the first two years of the war, Hitler refused to cut consumer goods production or to increase the production of armaments. Blitzkrieg gave the Germans quick victories and enabled them to plunder the food and raw materials of conquered countries. In this way, they could avoid taking resources away from the civilian economy. After German defeats on the Russian front and the American entry into the war, however, the economic situation in Germany changed.

Early in 1942, Hitler finally ordered a massive increase in armaments production and in the size of the army. Hitler's architect, **Albert Speer**, was made minister for armaments and munitions in 1942. Speer was able to triple the production of armaments between 1942 and 1943, in spite of Allied air raids.

A total mobilization of the economy was put into effect in July 1944. Schools, theaters, and cafés were closed. By that time, though, total war mobilization was too late to save Germany from defeat.

Nazi attitudes toward women changed over the course of the war. Before the war, the Nazis had worked to keep women out of the job market. As the war progressed and more and more men were called up for military service, this position no longer made sense. Nazi magazines now proclaimed, "We see the woman as the eternal mother of our people, but also as the working and fighting comrade of the man."

In spite of this change, the number of women working in industry, agriculture, commerce, and domestic service increased

only slightly. The total number of employed women in September 1944 was 14.9 million, compared with 14.6 million in May 1939. Many women, especially those of the middle class, did not want jobs, particularly not in factories.

Japan

When it entered the war with the United States, Japan already had an economy in high gear after four years of war with China. Wartime Japan was a highly mobilized society. To guarantee its control over all national resources, the government created a planning board to control prices, wages, labor, and resources. Traditional habits of obedience and hierarchy were used to encourage citizens to sacrifice their resources, and sometimes their lives, for the national cause.

The calls for sacrifice reached a high point in the final years of the war. Young Japanese were encouraged to volunteer to serve as pilots in suicide missions against U.S. fighting ships at sea. These pilots were known as **kamikaze**, or "divine wind." The name went back to the late thirteenth century when kamikazes (though not airborne) had saved Japan from Kublai Khan and the Mongols.

Japan was extremely reluctant to mobilize women on behalf of Japan's war effort. **General Hideki Tōjō**, prime minister from 1941 to 1944, opposed female employment. He argued that "the weakening of the family system would be the weakening of the nation. . . . [W]e are able to do our duties only because we have wives and mothers at home."

Female employment increased during the war, but only in such areas as the textile industry and farming, where women had traditionally worked. Instead of using women to meet labor shortages, the Japanese government brought in Korean and Chinese laborers.

When the Japanese Diet—the legislature—passed its new constitution in 1947, women were assured the right to vote. They were given legal equality with men in every way.

✓ Reading Check Evaluating How did World War II contribute to racial tensions in the United States?

The Bombing of Cities

MAIN IDEA The bombing of cities in Britain, Germany, and Japan destroyed buildings and killed thousands of civilians.

HISTORY & YOU Has a relative told you about living someplace where military attacks were a threat? Read to learn about the bombing of cities during World War II.

Bombing was used in World War II against military targets, enemy troops, and civilian populations. Bombing made the home front a dangerous place.

Although a few bombing raids had been conducted in the last year of World War I, the aircraft of the time were limited by how far they could fly and by how much they could carry. Many leaders believed that bombing civilian populations would force governments to make peace, so in the 1930s, European air forces developed long-range bombers that carried enormous payloads.

Britain

The first sustained use of civilian bombing began in early September 1940. Londoners took the first heavy blows. For months, the German air force bombed **London** nightly. Thousands of civilians were killed or injured, and enormous damage was done. In spite of the extensive damage done to lives and property, Londoners' morale remained high.

The **blitz**, as the British called the German air raids, soon became a national experience. The blitz was carried to many other British cities and towns. The ability of Londoners to maintain their morale set the standard for the rest of the British population. The theory that the bombing of civilian targets would force peace was proved wrong.

Germany

The British failed to learn from their own experience, however. Churchill and his advisers believed that destroying German communities would break civilian morale and bring victory. Major bombing raids on German cities began in 1942. On May 31, 1942, Cologne became the first German city to be attacked by 1,000 bombers.

Bombing raids added an element of terror to the dire circumstances caused by growing shortages of food, clothing, and fuel. Germans especially feared the incendiary bombs, which created firestorms that swept through cities. The ferocious bombing of **Dresden** from February 13 to 15, 1945, created a firestorm that may have killed as many as 100,000 inhabitants and refugees.

Germany suffered enormously from the Allied bombing raids. Millions of buildings were destroyed; half a million civilians died. Nevertheless, it is highly unlikely that Allied bombing sapped the German morale. Instead, Germans, whether pro-Nazi or anti-Nazi, fought on stubbornly, often driven simply by a desire to live.

Nor did the bombing destroy Germany's industrial capacity. Production of war materials actually increased between 1942 and 1944, in spite of the bombing. However, the widespread destruction of transportation systems and fuel supplies made it extremely difficult for the new materials to reach the German military.

Japan

Japan was open to air raids toward the end of the war because its air force had almost been destroyed. Moreover, its crowded cities were built of flimsy materials that were especially vulnerable to fire.

Attacks on Japanese cities by the new U.S. B-29 Superfortresses, the biggest bombers of the war, had begun on November 24, 1944. By the summer of 1945, many of Japan's industries had been destroyed, along with one-fourth of its dwellings. To add to the strength of its regular army, the Japanese government decreed the mobilization of all people between the ages of 13 and 60 into a People's Volunteer Corps.

In Japan, the bombing of civilians reached a new level with the use of the first atomic bomb. Fearing high U.S. casualties in a land invasion of Japan, President Truman and his advisers decided to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

✓ Reading Check Explaining Why were civilian populations bombed?

TURNING POINT

HIROSHIMA, NAGASAKI, AND THE NUCLEAR AGE

On August 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Of the city's 350,000 inhabitants, 190,000 died—some immediately and others after suffering the effects of radiation. Three days later, a second bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. Japan's emperor soon surrendered, ending World War II in the Pacific.

The dropping of the atomic bombs in Japan marked the beginning of the Nuclear Age. Once the world had witnessed the deadly potential of nuclear energy, other countries raced to build their own nuclear weapons. In August 1949, the Soviet Union set off its first atomic bomb, starting an arms race with the United States that lasted for 40 years.

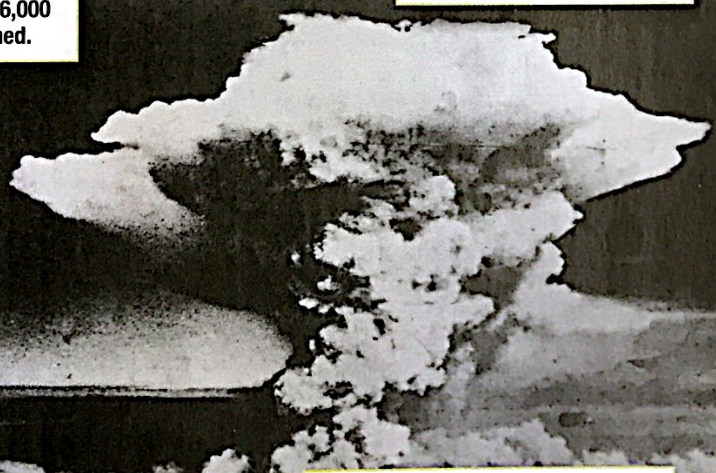
The standoff between the Soviet Union and the United States ended in the 1980s, but the nuclear weapons issue remains. Today many countries are working together to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. After the destruction at Hiroshima, few nations want to risk another nuclear explosion. Yet because nuclear technology also has peaceful uses, such as generating electricity, controlling its use can be difficult.



Destruction in Hiroshima, 1945

70,000 of Hiroshima's 76,000 buildings were flattened.

Five square miles of Hiroshima turned to ashes.



Nuclear bombs create large mushroom-shaped clouds, dropping deadly radioactive fallout.

CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

- Determining Cause and Effect** What impact did the atomic bomb have upon the course of World War II?
- Identifying Main Ideas** How did nuclear technology redefine the second half of the twentieth century?

Peace and a New War

MAIN IDEA Political tensions, suspicions, and a conflict of ideas led the United States and the Soviet Union into the Cold War.

HISTORY & YOU How do you treat people you do not trust? Read to learn how the United States and the Soviet Union reacted to one another in this era.

No real peace but a period of political tensions, known as the **Cold War**, followed the total victory of the Allies in World War II. An ideological conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union, the Cold War dominated world affairs until the end of the 1980s.

The Tehran Conference

Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill were the leaders of the Big Three (the Soviet Union, the United States, and Great Britain) of the Grand Alliance. They met at Tehran in November 1943 to decide the future course of the war. Their major tactical decision had concerned the final assault on Germany, an American-British invasion through France scheduled for the spring of 1944.

The acceptance of this plan had important consequences. It meant that Soviet and British-American forces would meet in defeated Germany along a north-south dividing line. Most likely, Soviet forces would liberate Eastern Europe. The Allies also agreed to a partition of postwar Germany.

The Yalta Conference

The Big Three powers met again at Yalta in southern Russia in February 1945. By then, the defeat of Germany was assured. The Western powers, having once believed that the Soviets were in a weak position, now faced the reality of 11 million Soviet soldiers taking possession of Eastern Europe and much of central Europe.

Stalin was deeply suspicious of the Western powers. He wanted a buffer to protect the Soviet Union from possible future Western aggression. This meant establishing pro-Soviet governments along the Soviet Union's borders.

Roosevelt, however, favored the idea of self-determination for Europe. This involved a pledge to help liberated Europe create "democratic institutions of their own choice" through free elections.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

EUROPE AFTER WORLD WAR II



Geography SKILLS

- 1. Regions** Compare this map to the map on page 763 and identify the political changes in Europe from 1918 to 1945.
- 2. Place** What happened to Germany's borders after World War II?

Roosevelt also agreed to Stalin's price for military aid against Japan: Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands, ruled by Japan, as well as two warm-water ports and railroad rights in Manchuria.

The creation of the United Nations was a major American concern at Yalta. Both Churchill and Stalin accepted Roosevelt's plans for the establishment of a United Nations organization and set the first meeting for San Francisco in April 1945.

The issues of Germany and Eastern Europe were treated less decisively. Once Germany surrendered unconditionally, the Big Three agreed to divide Germany into four zones, one each for the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union to occupy and govern. Stalin compromised and agreed to free elections in Poland. However, it was clear that Stalin might not honor this provision for other Eastern European countries. The issue of free elections in Eastern Europe caused a serious split between the Soviets and Americans. This split became more evident when the Big Three next met at Potsdam, Germany.

The Potsdam Conference

The Potsdam Conference of July 1945 began in mistrust. Harry Truman, having succeeded Roosevelt, demanded free elections in Eastern Europe. Stalin responded, "A freely elected government in any of these East European countries would be anti-Soviet, and that we cannot allow." Stalin sought absolute security for the Soviets. Free elections would threaten his goal of controlling Eastern Europe. Short of an invasion by Western forces, nothing would undo developments in Eastern Europe. Very few supported such a policy of invasion.

The Allies did agree that trials should be held of leaders who had committed crimes against humanity during the war. In 1945 and 1946, Nazi leaders were tried and condemned at trials in Nuremberg, Germany. Trials were also held in Japan and Italy.

A New Struggle

A new struggle began. Many in the West thought Soviet policy was part of a worldwide Communist conspiracy. The Soviets viewed Western, and especially American, policy as nothing less than global capitalist expansionism.

The former British prime minister Winston Churchill declared that "an iron curtain" had "descended across the continent," dividing Europe into two hostile camps. Stalin branded Churchill's speech a "call to war with the Soviet Union." Only months after the world's most devastating conflict had ended, the world seemed to be bitterly divided once again.

✓ Reading Check **Identifying** What caused the major split between the United States and the Soviet Union following World War II?

Vocabulary

1. **Explain** the significance of: widespread, mobilization, Albert Speer, kamikaze, General Hideki Tōjō, London, blitz, Dresden, Cold War, ideological.

Main Ideas

2. **Compare** the role of women in Germany, the Soviet Union, Japan, and the United States during the war.
3. **List** the countries where bombing of heavily populated cities took place. Use a chart like the one below to make your list.

Country	City

4. **Summarize** the outcomes of the three conferences in which the Big Three (United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union) participated during and after World War II.

Critical Thinking

5. **The BIG Idea** **Drawing**

Conclusions How did World War II affect the world balance of power? Which nations emerged from the conflict as world powers?

6. **Defending** General Hideki Tōjō argued that "the weakening of the family system would be the weakening of the nation." Why?
7. **Analyzing Visuals** Examine the photographs on page 885. In what ways did the nuclear blast in Hiroshima cause both immediate and long-term damage?

Writing About History

8. **Persuasive Writing** Could President Truman have dropped the atomic bombs on Japan not to end the war but to impress the Soviet Union with U.S. military power? Write an essay evaluating this hypothesis.

History ONLINE

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CHAPTER 26 Visual Summary

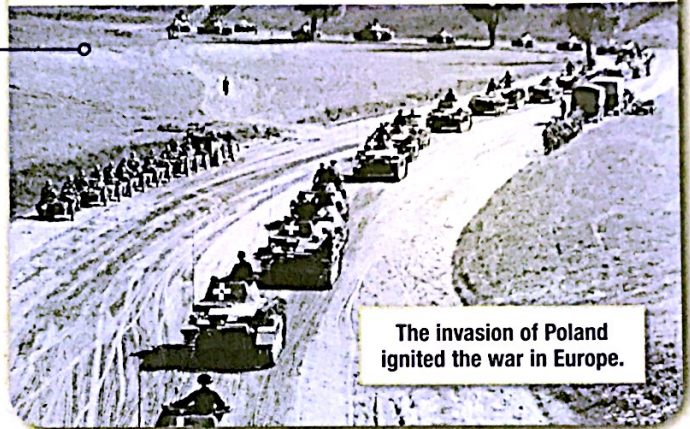


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THE BEGINNING of World War II

- Nazi Germany began an aggressive policy of expansion.
- After Germany invaded Poland, Britain and France declared war on Germany.
- Seeking access to natural resources, Japan seized Manchuria and North China.
- Japan launched a surprise attack on U.S. and European colonies in Southeast Asia in 1940.

GERMAN TANKS STREAM INTO POLAND, 1939



The invasion of Poland ignited the war in Europe.

ALLIED TROOPS LAND AT NORMANDY, 1944

Allies attacked Normandy from air and sea, beginning a sweep that would eventually defeat Nazi Germany.



THE COURSE of the War

- The German blitzkrieg subdued much of western and central Europe, but Germany could not defeat Britain or Russia.
- The Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor in 1941 brought the United States into the war.
- The Grand Alliance forced the unconditional surrender of the Axis Powers in 1945.
- After the war, political tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union led to the Cold War.

LIVES AFFECTED by War

- Germany and Japan forced people of conquered nations to labor for their war effort.
- Hitler's extremist racial views led to the Holocaust and death of millions.
- Civilians worked in war factories and endured shortages.
- Bombings targeted civilians as well as the military.
- Almost 20 million civilians died in the war.

NAZIS ROUND UP JEWS IN WARSAW, POLAND, 1943



Jewish children and their mothers were the first to be sent to the gas chambers.